



## Commonwealth of Kentucky Public Protection Cabinet

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Governor Beshear Proclaims September as Campus Fire Safety Month**

#### ***State Fire Marshal Reminds Students to be Aware of Hazards***

**FRANKFORT, Ky.** (Aug. 25, 2014) – As students from across the Commonwealth pack up their belongings to move from home into college dormitories and off-campus housing, Gov. Steve Beshear and the Kentucky state fire marshal are asking both parents and students to take the threat of fire seriously.

Governor Beshear has proclaimed September as Campus Fire Safety Month. "Awareness, education and enforcement of safety and security measures are vital to keeping our young adults safe," said Gov. Beshear. "This awareness month provides an opportunity for schools and communities to educate students about the dangers of fire and their role in creating a fire safe environment."

Kentucky State Fire Marshal William Swope encourages students to be proactive when it comes to safety. "There are three basic steps students can do to be safer: make sure smoke detectors are operational; make sure you live in a dormitory with sprinklers; and know two ways out of your dormitory, campus building or off-campus residence. These offer the best chance of survival in case of fire."

The National Campus Fire Safety Month campaign is in its 10<sup>th</sup> year.

Kentucky's Division of Fire Prevention offers the following safety tips for college students:

- Get familiar with university policy on proper use of appliances, decorations, candles, and smoking.
- Figure out what your response should be in the event of a fire and practice it.
- Do not obstruct or disable smoke alarms or any other fire protection devices.
- Do not play jokes with fire alarms. False alarms get people hurt.
- Never neglect a fire alarm signal as a false alarm. Respond to every alarm as an actual fire event.
- Alcohol use has been strongly associated with fire fatalities.
- Take personal responsibility for your safety.

For information on campus fire safety, visit <http://www.campus-firewatch.com/>.

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